JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM HAWAI'I EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER



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TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON SENATE BILL NO. 299, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

March 31, 2023 3:00 p.m. Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO BUDGET-RELATED SUBMISSIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill. Senate Bill No. 299, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, proposes to authorize the Legislature to prescribe the form of the budget requests of the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The bill requires the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to conform by December 1, 2023, but has an effective date of June 30, 3000 to allow further discussion.

Regarding the proposed budget requests for the Executive Branch, this bill amends Section 37-71, The Budget; Section 37-72, Supplemental Budget; and Section 37-92, Proposed General Fund Appropriations; Executive Branch; Judicial Branch of the HRS to provide the authority to the Legislature to set the form of the biennium and supplemental budget requests. Currently, the formats of the Executive Branch's biennium and supplemental budget requests to the Legislature are specified by Sections 37-71, 37-72, and 37-92, HRS.

These budget requests are compiled using reports that were explicitly developed to meet the numerous statutory requirements. Many of these reports are generated off the State's mainframe and B&F's budget eSystems; thus, changes to these reports may require substantial amounts of time to reprogram. As such, B&F may be unable to conform the budget documents by December 1, 2023, as the budget of the Executive Branch is the most complex document with many interrelationships of data.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.